

CityScene

NORMANDY PARK

SUMMER 2020

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

*Dog Etiquette: To Leash
or Not To Leash*

PAGE 16

Community in Quarantine

PAGE 26

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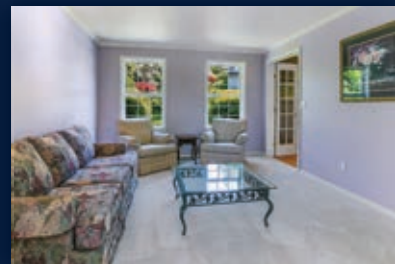


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Sue-Ann Hohimer
Mayor

The Dog Days of Summer

Welcome to all the new family pets added to Normandy Park households during the quarantine!

Nearly a year ago, it was decided by the Communications Committee that the summer edition of *City Scene* quarterly magazine 2020 would be titled, “The Dog Days of Summer” and feature all things related to pets, more specifically, dogs.

Originally, this was because we’d had quite a significant response to a survey about dog leash laws in Normandy Park in which respondents seemed almost perfectly divided. We thought an edition featuring dogs would give an opportunity to remind people of the courtesies we should be able to expect from one another as pet owners and fellow residents. The goal is to achieve something that works for all of us and balances safety, responsibility, and freedom.

In the months since our “Spring into Action” edition, world events have given us pause to question the overall importance of certain matters and the potential pettiness of others especially when compared to a global pandemic, social injustices, and our basic rights



*Pre-Pandemic Parading in The Park—
Mayor Hohimer Family with Bulldog
Baby Baxter*

as Americans. Yet in life, as within each individual, the way smaller matters are addressed often has an impact on the larger.

So, while only touching on the pivotal issues of the day, we proceed with this edition on The Dog Days of Summer in the hope that even in a topic as minor as “To Leash or Not To Leash,” you take away a profound sense of gratitude for the freedom to act with personal responsibility in looking after not only your own interest, but also the interests of others...as pet owners, community members, neighbors, visitors and friends. Read on for more details.



CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall Address:
801 SW 174th Street,
Normandy Park, WA 98166

**City Office—
Operating Hours and
Contact Information:**
City Staff can be reached
at 206-248-7603, Monday-
Friday 8:30am–4:30pm,
closed for lunch 12–1pm.
Due to COVID City Hall is
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- Building Permits
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Welcoming Shelly Bedingfield!

BY JENNIFER FERRER-SANTA INES, FINANCE DIRECTOR

You might have noticed a new face around City Hall. Shelly Bedingfield, a former Alaska Airlines employee, recently joined the City on February 24 to serve as Normandy Park Administrative Assistant. On her free time, Shelly enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. She has been to Australia at least six times visiting close friends and her adoptive family that lives there.

While Shelly has no children of her own, she enjoys being Auntie to two teenage nieces, Caitlyn who is 14 and Emma who is 12, as well as dog sitting for her nephews. Besides working, navigating through her nieces' teenage years and watching over furry loved ones,



From the left: Dad, me, Niece Caitlyn, ZZ, Emma Jordan, Heidi, Brother Cory. Front: Daniel and my Mom

Shelly also volunteers her time as a Big Sister to a young 14-year-old.

Shelly commented how much she enjoys working for the City and learning more about our community.



Wilson's Story

BY SHELLEY BEDINGFIELD

Back in August of 2019, I was on Facebook and a friend had posted that someone was giving away Australian Shepherd/Lab mix puppies. This happened to be the exact dog that my brother Cory wanted, and the rest is history. Wilson was part of the family in October, 2019.

Since I don't have my own pet, I often have the opportunity to watch Wilson on several occasions. Wilson is the sweetest, smartest, and most loving dog I know. I'm so very lucky to spend time with him as often as allowed by his dad.

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MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR

Arts Commission

1st Tuesday, 7pm

Economic Development Committee

1st Wednesday, 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday, 7pm

Metropolitan Parks District

2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm (if necessary)

Civil Service

3rd Tuesday, Noon (if necessary)

Park Commission

3rd Wednesday, 7pm

Planning Commission

3rd Thursday, 7pm

Council Study Session

4th Tuesday, 7pm (if necessary)

Council Corner

BY SHAWN MCEVOY, CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Wow! I don't think anyone saw this coming. The changes to our lives have been quick and profound. We've adapted, begrudgingly, but with the understanding that this is important, and our diligence will pay off.

It is difficult right now for many of us (maybe all of us). Even though we are a strong and caring community we cannot help but miss the ability to get together safely to laugh and enjoy fun conversation. While car parades provide a temporary substitution, gone this year will be the 4th of July and community gathering at the Cove/beach. Gone are the summer concerts, emergency preparedness fair (Zombie Fest), and probably Winterfest too. Sports are diminished as are many of the activities we previously took for granted. While these are sad times, we will endure, and the future will find us stronger with even more appreciation for our wonderful community. There

will be fairs, festivals, and fun with friends and neighbors again. We will find new ways to reconnect and remember the past successful events presented by Normandy Park.

Our community is very lucky to have so many volunteers—caring, sharing members who make so much happen. As we get back to a safer world, think how you might like to help. Volunteering is fun! You make new friends and you can actually make things happen. It won't be that hard to restart. It has always been about people getting together, caring, sharing, working together in our

community. Parks, arts, streams, forests, festivals, and fairs all start with people wanting to see it all come back to life. Even if you don't have time to volunteer, there are still ways to help. Normandy Park is lucky to have several non-profits dedicated to our community. Let's not forget those amazing folks who left their legacy of enduring gifts such as Nist Park, Walker Preserve, Wilson Park, and others. Their selfless gifts, their legacy, will never be forgotten.



While these are sad times, we will endure, and the future will find us stronger with even more appreciation for our wonderful community.

A Ticket to Ride

BY MARY ANDERSON, FINANCE SPECIALIST

Even though your dog can't reach the gas pedal or hang onto the steering wheel, they still need a license. Some people might think it's not a big deal, but as a dog owner and receiver of many calls from tearful owners looking for their lost pets, I can assure you it is very important.

When a pet wanders away from home, it can be stressful for pets and their owners. Even if you have an 'indoor pet', accidents



happen. Gates or doors get left open, backyard fences get blown down, and excited

or scared dogs can escape their collars and take off running. An up-to-date license tag reunites pets with their owners faster.

Many dogs are microchipped, but unless the person or agency that finds your dog has a chip reader, a license tag is immediately visible and a quick way of getting your pup home. Microchipping is a great backup to licensing, but be sure to register the pet and keep contact information up to date.

Pets can wander far from home and if found, they cannot tell the finder their address or pull out an ID card. Their tag lets everyone know they're not a homeless stray! When you fill out their license application, your contact information is entered into the City licensing database.

If your pet is turned in or picked up by the Normandy Park Police Department and has a tag, the police will use the information from the license application and contact the owner(s). Both of our dogs also wear I.D. tags with our contact information, making it easier for anyone finding them to call us immediately. These are available at most pet stores and Amazon.

If they're not wearing a license tag, a microchip reader will be used and if a chip is found, the company will be contacted.

What happens if there's no tag and no microchip is detected? Rather than a ride home, your pet might find themselves getting a ride to the kennel. But before that happens, the police will post a photo of the dog on the Normandy Park Police Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NPChief.

If the dog is not claimed, it will be taken to the kennel. In the

unfortunate event your dog ends up at the kennel, you must come into City Hall and pay for the kennel boarding costs and City licensing fees before you can pick them up.

The City of Normandy Park requires all dogs over six months of age and kept within the city to be licensed. Normandy Park Municipal Code (NPMC) 6.04.020

A pet license may be purchased in person at City Hall during regular business hours or by mail. Please bring or mail a completed application (normandyparkwa.gov/services/finance-services/pet-license/) and proof of spay/neuter, along with a check for the proper amount. If applying by mail, a tag will be sent to your home address.

Make sure your furry friends are licensed. A tag on their collar is the best chance of them getting a Ticket to Ride home!



Pet License Fees

- \$63** Dog/Cat
male or female
- \$21** Dog/Cat
spayed or neutered
- \$21** Lifetime Pet License
(residents age 65 and over)
- \$12** Late fee
- \$4** Replacement tag

Contact Shelly Bedingfield,
Administrative Assistant,
206-248-7603 for
additional information.

Black Lives Matter March in Normandy Park

BY MARK HOPPEN, CITY MANAGER

Since the Emancipation in 1863, America's progress toward equality has been slow, with setbacks and challenges.

Current protests, including a Black Lives Matter march in Normandy Park, are motivated by recent highly visible and inexcusable judgments and actions by a few police officers, as well as similar incidents over-the-years. These incidents are not indicative of policing generally.

Every decent person wants to live in a society where truth, justice and the American Way are available to all people.

Such protests also stand for inequitable social conditions: poverty, economic disparity, and daily latent or overt apprehension that the black community experiences in its relationship to law enforcement.

Every decent person wants to live in a society where truth, justice and the American Way are available to all people.

We need to build a society that is fair to everyone, that

builds goodwill among all people, and that has real access to the benefits that public safety, education, jobs, health care, food, and housing bring to individual and family well-being.

Pragmatically, what can individuals do? How do individuals transform protest energy into lasting social benefit?

First of all, don't pillory decent, hard-working men and women in police uniform who risk their lives daily to protect all of us. Good officers deserve support.

Read about slavery, about the horrors of the practice. Learn about the Civil Rights Movement. Read famous literature by black authors. Dialogue with people of color who are different than you; listen and take heed.

Support minority businesses, particularly small businesses.

Make connection with people different than yourself.

We all have a lot to offer each other: understanding, empathy, unilateral trust, and service.



Listening and Learning Through the Silence

"My expectations were wildly exceeded", said Normandy Park resident, organizer Haley Ballast, of the more that 450 residents, neighbors and friends, that quietly gathered with signs and wore black for a silent march on Friday, June 12, at The Cove in response to King County's call for a statewide day of action in support of all Black lives in Washington state.

King County Councilmember, Dave Upthegrove, Board Vice President, Bernie Dorsey and other Normandy Park residents in leadership at the Highline

School District joined with our Police Chief, Dan Yourkoski, Mayor Hohimer and fellow Councilmembers to march in silence with hundreds of Normandy Park families and friends to honor, grieve and remember the lives of Black individuals victimized by brutality and injustice throughout the country.

"The silence of the crowd enhanced the strength of the moment, allowing people an opportunity to reflect and better absorb the significance and depth

of emotion around the cause" said Councilmember Michelle Sipes-Marvin who, along with Councilmember Ernest Thompson, our Police Department and our local QFC, saw to it that the crowd had access to bottled water as the marchers silently reached the uphill destination of City Hall.

Though there were no specific speeches given, Ballast encouraged those moved by the silence of the shared moment to now "loudly" live as active participants in bringing about an even more just society.



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The Importance of Economic Development in Times of Uncertainty

CONTRIBUTORS: HOLLY KEETON, ANDREA REAY, MEGAN TUCKER AND BRANDON MILES

Now, more than ever, the importance of economic development cannot be overstated. The City of Normandy Park and the Seattle Southside Chamber have developed a relationship over the past few years to help both new and established businesses succeed. This relationship and the efforts we put forth together have become crucial in a time of uncertainty. We strive to offer the utmost support as our community experiences the human and economic impacts of COVID-19. You can help by supporting local businesses in these uncertain times.



The Southside Chamber of Commerce has created the Southside Mitigation and Recovery Taskforce (S.M.A.R.T.) at www.seattlesouthsidechamber.com.

com/smart to encourage the quick recovery of the business community. SMART is a public/private taskforce that strives to find real solutions to the challenges our community faces as we confront the human and economic impacts of COVID-19. It is focused on three main objectives:

- **Advocacy**—To ensure relief from local and federal funding sources reaches the pockets of the small business owners and communities that are in most need of support
- **Support**—To share and provide resources that help businesses and individuals
- **Marketing and Promotion**—To create and support campaigns and efforts that support local business

To achieve these goals, SMART is currently spearheading the programs on these pages.



Keep Calm and Carry Out

A campaign that acts as a hub to promote restaurant take-out programs during the closures created by COVID-19. As we progress through reopening phases, carry out programs will remain in high-demand and are a great way to support local businesses.

For more information and to see which restaurants are participating in your area, please visit:

www.seattlesouthsidechamber.com/keep-calm-and-carry-out



Saving Local

In partnership with the City of Tukwila, this campaign acts as an online catalog of deals offered by King County businesses. It encourages community members to directly support local businesses through the purchase of gift cards, future redemption offers, curbside pick-up, and online ordering incentivized by special promotions.

For more information and to find specials at your favorite King County locations, visit:

www.savinglocalkc.com



SMART Webinar Series

Produced by Chamber staff, affiliates, and partners, this series brings together experts to discuss and explain topics that are vital during economic recovery. These virtual events are free to attend and open to the public through the Chamber website.

For more information and to watch past or register for future webinars, please visit:

www.seattlesouthsidechamber.com/smart-webinar



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Southside Strong Fund

This fund provides direct awards to local businesses during a time of extreme need. Please consider donating to this tax-deductible fund to provide direct monetary assistance to small businesses in our community.

For more information and to donate, visit:

www.seattlesouthsidechamber.com/southside-strong-fund

There are many other resources for local businesses. City staff has worked persistently to partner with the Southside Chamber, the Small Business Development Center at Highline, and regional entities to ensure that business owners are provided current and applicable resources. These efforts have served as a reminder that we get through tough times by pulling together, not pulling away, and providing support to each other with compassion. As always, Together We Are Stronger.



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Understanding Critical Areas—The Basics

BY HOLLY KEETON, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The City of Normandy Park is a lush, biodiverse part of Washington; its beauty is present in stretching shoreline, majestic mature growth trees as well as lakes and streams. Living in such a stunning place can, unfortunately, present burdens for property owners as the natural landscape in such areas also carries regulatory responsibilities. City staff realizes that being proactive in addressing the presence of critical areas within the City of Normandy Park will likely serve as a benefit to both citizens and staff. The goals of this article are to tell you about critical areas, to help you identify if you might be located in a critical area, and to provide you with what you need to know if you are located in one of those areas.

The City of Normandy Park consists of many critical areas. It is covered with shoreline at the westerly city boundary; lining much of the shoreline are steep bluffs and slopes, while wetlands are also found throughout the city. If you reside in a lowland or a highland, chances are you live in a critical area. The lowlands are prone to wetland characteristics while the highlands have steep slopes that also border streams in some areas. If you live near the shoreline (all property 200 feet from the ordinary high water mark), it's likely that you have more than one type of sensitive area present on your property as steep slopes and shoreline often

go hand-in-hand in Washington. All of these topographic features require additional review and professional assessment that require the property owner to find and hire an environmental specialist and apply for permits.

It is important to know that if you have a slope, a body of water or commonly damp soil areas on your property, or such areas within 60 feet of your property, then you are likely subject to critical areas regulations, found in the City of Normandy Park Municipal Code (NPMC), Chapter 18.36. These regulations often require that a property owner hire a geotechnical engineer and/or biologist to assess the site prior to any site work being allowed. When such work is undertaken without a permit, it becomes a code enforcement issue. Staff members have joined together to discuss how we can help citizens become more aware

of regulations without forcing everyone to be a municipal code expert. A series of articles will be published in City Scene in the coming year to help the critical area and review process become less of an enigma and to teach the public about the local topography, followed by another on slopes or bluffs (geohazard areas), work within a stream or wetland buffer, and work within the shoreline jurisdiction.

With the region's sunny season at its start, many people will plan home improvements and landscaping projects. It's important to understand that if you plan to do any type of work in a critical area, it likely requires a permit, which can only be provided after the review of the appropriate environmental reports. These reports must address the specific elements

—continued next page

If you are unsure of whether or not you are located in a critical area, staff is available to assist you in understanding preliminary data tied to your property. Please contact Community Development for more information by emailing permits@normandyparkwa.gov or by calling 206-248-8260.

of Chapter 18.36 NPMC that apply to the site. A common code enforcement problem in the City is work on slopes. It is often misunderstood that when something is exempt from a building permit that it is not exempt from other regulations (i.e. critical areas code regulations). For example, the building code regulations (NPMC 14.05.245) note that a retention wall measuring four feet in height or less is exempt from a permit; however, the same work in a critical area requires engineered plans for the wall, geotechnical report review, and permitting (NPMC 18.36.510 through 18.36.530). To better help citizens understand the process, a new article on critical areas will be published in each *City Scene* for the next year and the city staff is putting together Public Assistance Memos to outline key points and processes for different types of critical areas.

In other interesting news about dogs...

Scientists are currently training dogs to identify COVID-19 using their keen canine sense of smell. A new program at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet) is putting noses to the grindstone for disease detection. Researchers are working with dogs to see if the canines' superior olfactory sense can help with early detection of COVID-19 in humans!



Dr. Bae has been named a "SEATTLE TOP DENTIST" by her peers and recognized in the *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*

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Why Doesn't Normandy Park Have a Dog Park?

BY AMANDA LEÓN, PARKS DIRECTOR

According to a 2018 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) survey 91% of Americans think that dog parks provide benefits to a community. In dense urban areas dog parks are often the only place that dogs can run, play fetch, or play with other dogs. As the Parks and Recreation Director in Normandy Park, I am frequently asked “Why don’t we have a dog park yet?” I start talking about the availability and ease of access to local parks that have opportunities for both on and off leash adventures. Most of the time it’s an opportunity for education—I learn about pet owners’ habits, and they learn about local parks that provide a variety of experiences.

The truth is, I am not a fan of dog parks. I worked for many years in NYC and Philadelphia designing and managing public landscapes. After many years of designing and managing ongoing landscape maintenance of dog parks, I developed a bias. Introducing a dog park in a community-based design process became tantamount to going to war. The minute a dog park discussion began the entire room would divide; physically, emotionally, and verbally neighbors went to into battle. It became the dog folks vs. non-dog folks. When all

was said and done and the community group collectively decided (after six to 12 months of arguing) to carve out an 'appropriate' amount of space for the dog park, we went about the work of installing the parks. Each one was better than the last, and they had amazing features full of hoops to jump through, rocks to climb, turf to tear up, gravel to spin out in, etc, etc, etc! But within six months each park had breakouts of Bordetella, or Distemper, Leptospira bacteria, Guardia, Hookworms, Roundworms, fleas, or canine influenza.

Cleaning and maintaining dog parks to prevent disease is very difficult. In a fenced in area, the soil saturation and feces removal from all the dogs is an environmental nightmare. Dogs go to the bathroom and produce about one half to a pound of feces a day. One hundred dogs can produce more than 500 lbs of feces per week. That is a lot of potential for the spread of disease, worms, and sicknesses for a dog. In Philadelphia, we had to dig out two feet of urine-soaked soil every other year in order to try and keep the smells and contamination reduced.

Dog parks are not a substitute for exercise and walking.

In a perfect world dog parks wouldn't be needed.

Well-behaved dogs would be able to play off-leash.

What I often observed at the dog parks were people chatting in groups after letting their dog 'go play' with other dogs. The people often paid more attention to others than to their own dogs. Dogs can easily slip into defensive aggression or frustration aggression, and sometimes their playstyles aren't synchronized. Fights often break out due to resource guarding mannerisms. If they aren't being supervised, fights between dogs can lead to dogs learning bad behavior from other dogs—being pushy when greeting or aggression when playing. Conversely, shy or skittish dogs become easily overwhelmed when meeting dogs in and out of the dog park if they have a bad experience. If all goes well and every dog behaves well with every dog in the dog park, then visits to the park are incident free. But, I often saw that not all dogs were on their best behavior when visiting. And, as a dog aficionado, it would break my heart to hear that dogs were attacked or killed when using dog parks I designed and managed.

Normandy Park has great parks to enjoy with your dog. Nist Park is my personal favorite dog friendly park, my dogs love running up the hill over and over again playing fetch. If you like trail walking with your dog Nature Trails, Walker Preserve, and Marine View Park are great adventures. Marine View Park affords a swim in the Puget Sound if your dog enjoys

a cool dip on a hot summer

day. City Hall and Marvista Parks are great for taking a leisurely stroll, having a picnic, and rolling around in the grass with your dog.



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To Leash or Not to Leash...

In every situation, while off your personal property, pet owners in Normandy Park are obligated by Municipal Code to maintain control of their dogs at ALL times.

...that is the question.

Regardless of the different opinions that exist, there is no questioning the fact that in every situation pet owners have an obligation to be in control and responsible for their pet's behavior. The word "trained" rarely applies in the past tense when it comes to our furry friends.

Training our pets is an ongoing task. That is one of the many responsibilities that comes with being a pet owner.

At right is a friendly reminder of dog etiquette that will increase the safety and enjoyment we all hope to experience while enjoying all that Normandy Park has to offer.

- 1 **Abide by Normandy Park Municipal Code (NPMC).** This means that pet owners or custodians are responsible for ensuring that their pets do not bite, molest, or annoy park visitors (NPMC 7.90.300). In permissible areas, pets are required to be under control at ALL times by means of voice, signal, or leash command (NPMC 7.90.290).
- 2 **Do not allow leashed or unleashed pets to greet a dog, pet, or human without asking permission first.** "He's friendly" means nothing to a very nervous person or pet. Spontaneous dog greetings can be stressful and terrifying encounters.
- 3 **Keep your dog on a leash or under voice/signal command at ALL times.** Hint—If your dog does not come when he is called, that is a sign he is not under voice/signal command.
- 4 **If you're dog is under strict voice/signal command, keep an eye on him/her at all times.** This will allow you to correct any misbehavior or pick up any waste left behind.
- 5 **Pick up after your pets!**

A MESSAGE FROM MOUNT RAINIER POOL ON RE-OPENING

Our intent is to re-open Mount Rainier Pool as soon as possible after restrictions have been lifted and it is safe to do so. Future services will be provided per state and county Health Department directives.

*For summer
water safety tips,
visit us at
www.mtrainierpool.com*

In the meantime, our staff is dedicated to providing:

SAFETY: The facility will be deep cleaned daily, with continuous cleaning of high-touch areas. All staff will be required to wear protective masks and gloves per CDC guidelines. A staff member will be dedicated to enforcing physical/social distancing rules.

VALUE: There may be limits as to how many people will be allowed in the pool at any given time due to social distancing. We will adjust membership rates and extensions accordingly. We also have scholarships that are not only available for swim lessons but are available for memberships and exercise classes, too.

COMMUNICATION: Due to social distancing, services will be rolled out in accordance with state-mandated regulations. This will require changes to our services over the next couple of months. Sign up to learn about pool updates and program changes via our email notification system on our website at www.mtrainierpool.com or by emailing info@mtrainierpool.com.

For additional questions or to speak to someone in person, contact Aquatics Coordinator Lauryne Newman at (206) 309-9452 or email her at lauryne.newman@desmoinespool.org.



Our Mount Rainier Pool website has the most up-to-date information on the pool, including an interactive schedule, swim lessons, scholarships, upcoming events, and news updates. Visit www.mtrainierpool.com.

MOUNT RAINIER POOL, DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
22722 19th Ave S, Des Moines WA 98198
206.824.4722 | info@mtrainierpool.com



@MTRAINIERPOOL

Celebrating our Public Works Department

BY JESSIE MEDROW, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

May 17–23, 2020, marked National Public Works Week. “The Rhythm of Public Works” was the theme chosen by the American Public Works Association (APWA). This theme was meant to challenge communities to think of all its members as a symphony of essential services. Public Works plays an integral role in Normandy Park’s tempo.

Even during a public health crisis, this dedicated group of public servants has never missed a beat, and we thank them for their hard work.

In addition to showing up for our citizens, Public Works shows up for other members of city staff. As the police department works hard to protect our safety, behind the scenes, Public Works is working hard to protect them! Creating a clean, hazard free

work environment, keeping supplies replenished, and being on call for emergency repairs.

Let’s celebrate our public works staff along with the tens of thousands of other men and women throughout the country who provide and maintain infrastructure services. In honor of these staff members you see in the picture, our goal is to energize and educate the community on the importance of their contributions.

Next time you see the crew, thank them for infrastructure services in stormwater and transportation, public buildings, city parks, grounds, emergency managements, right-of-way management, preventative maintenance, and quality of life services, as well as the countless other services they provide to keep our city moving all year long.

Cody Leonard is our resident horticulture enthusiast currently pursuing a degree in Natural Resources Management.

AJ Gonzales is the “Mr. Fix-it-type” who spends his hours outside of work making repairs to his family’s home or working on cars.

Ruben Lopez and his wife Kayla had their first baby boy late in 2019 and are enjoying their time as new parents.

Tony Smith and his wife Brittany also had a baby boy in February of 2020.

Corey Tillman has been with the city the longest with 10+ years working in Normandy Park. On weekends he enjoys spending time with his wife and kids.



Scoop. Bag. Throw Away.

BY JESSIE MEDROW, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Dogs and rain... staples in Normandy Park. When is the last time you went any notable period of time without running into either of those things? Personally, I prefer puppies over precipitation, but either way, the two do not mix. You know what else doesn't mix? Pet waste and rain. Not a pleasant thought, I'm aware. When it rains, water picks up pollutants along the way, including harmful bacteria in pet waste.

Let's dive into why scooping the poop is so important, why a regional public awareness campaign was launched by Puget

Sound Starts Here (PSSH), why the simple act of picking up after your pet is considered a best management practice (BMP), and why dog waste was listed as one of the greatest threats to water quality according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Where does it go if you don't scoop, bag, and throw away? We know there is no poop fairy. If dog doo-die duty is neglected, then the harmful nutrients found in pet waste either infiltrate into the soil where parasites can linger in the soil for up to several years or worse, waste is washed away into

a storm drain. Once in a storm drain, waste is often left untreated. There is only one other stop after that: rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound. Untreated fecal matter from dogs and other animals can be a source of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients. No matter how cute our pooches are, they can still be a host to Giardia or Salmonella. These disease causing organisms can then be transmitted to humans. Keeping a close eye on your dogs and ensuring they're in close proximity are recommended. Don't miss the opportunity to be a great steward and neighbor!

There are many reasons to pick up after your pet, but here are the top two:

1. Improving water quality by preventing pollutants from making their way into storm drains and local waterways.
2. Improving quality of life by being a great neighbor.

Bags found at pet waste stations in Normandy Park are courtesy of a Recycling Grant.

The solution to poo-llution starts with scooping.



Community Salmon Investigation: *Ten Years Strong*

BY MATT GOEHRING

2019 was a bittersweet year.

The 10th year of the community salmon surveys provided reason to celebrate. The program has been a huge success by many measures and exceeded all expectations. Over 120 local volunteers have participated in the program and contributed over 4,000 hours of time. Think about that—over 4,000 hours of community service! It's a testament to the importance of salmon to the community. Give yourself and your neighbors a hand!



The Miller Walker watershed has become one of the most intensively studied creeks with respect to urban runoff mortality—the phenomenon where coho salmon exposed to stormwater runoff die prior to spawning. A collaborative partnership spawned (pun intended) with University of Washington professor Ed Klodziej has thrust the watershed into the forefront of this research. The partnership has improved our understanding of sources of contaminants impacting coho salmon (likely one or more chemicals within tire rubber) and the transport of such contaminants through the watershed. It also guides strategic stormwater investments designed to improve water quality and restore local salmon runs.

Despite the success, 2019 was also a difficult year. If you regularly walk or live adjacent to Miller or Walker Creek, you understand why. Only 25 salmon were observed in daily surveys between October and December, the lowest number reported during the 10 years of surveys. This decline hasn't been unique to our watershed. Over the last few years, low returns have been reported across Puget Sound. One factor contributing to the decline has been warm ocean conditions that have disrupted local and regional food webs (remember the “Blob” of 2014–2016?). This is reflected in our local salmon returns. Not only are fish numbers down, but the average size of coho salmon is also down.

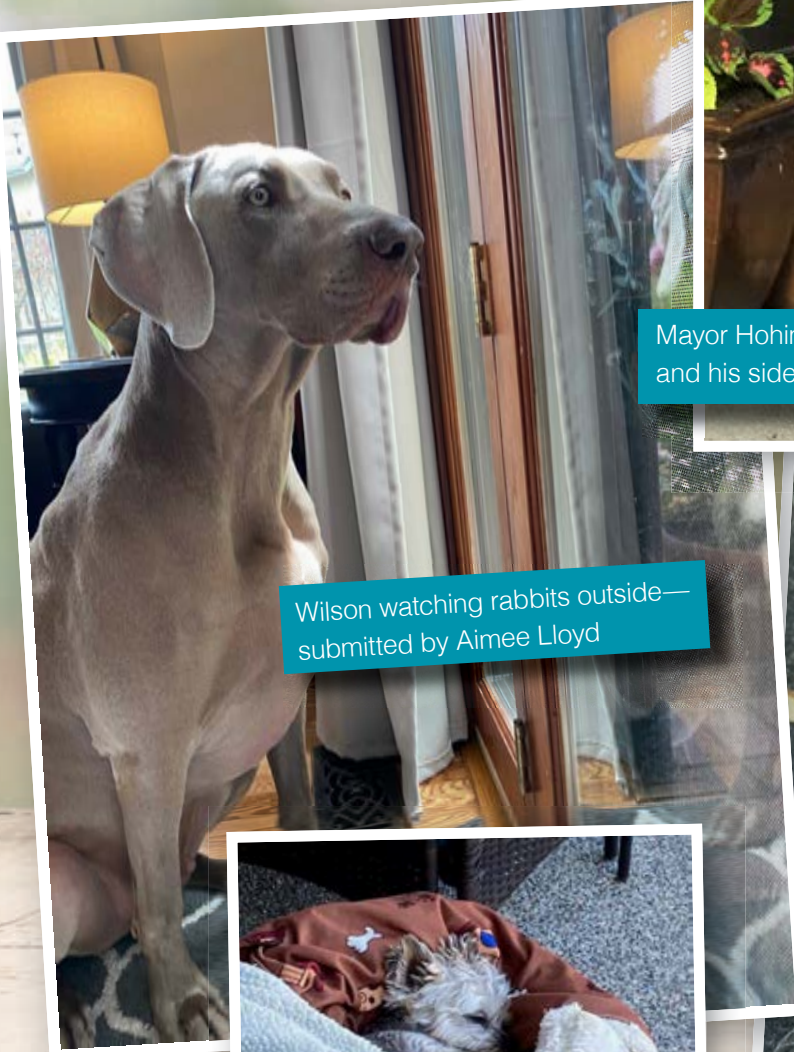
Biologist forecast 2020 will be another difficult year for salmon. Despite of this, scientists are getting closer to identifying the culprit behind urban runoff mortality, and we continue to restore habitat and reduce stormwater runoff.

If you are interested in joining the Community Salmon Investigation and/or learning more about what you can do to support salmon recovery, please contact Matt Goehring (mgoehring@kingcounty.gov).

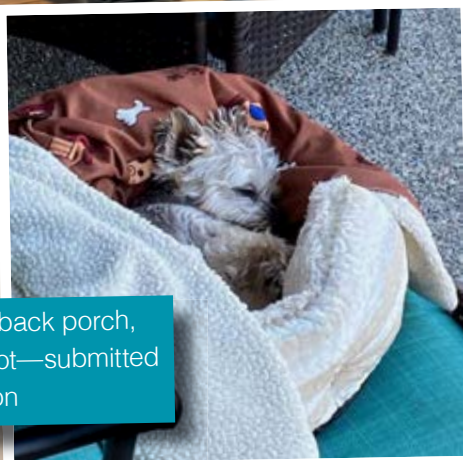
There is a cyclical element to Puget Sound salmon returns. In 2010, only 25 coho were observed. One year later over 400 hundred returned. Although I'm not suggesting a similar rebound is likely in 2020, I expect the dedicated local residents will be there to observe it when it does.

PETS ON PORCHES

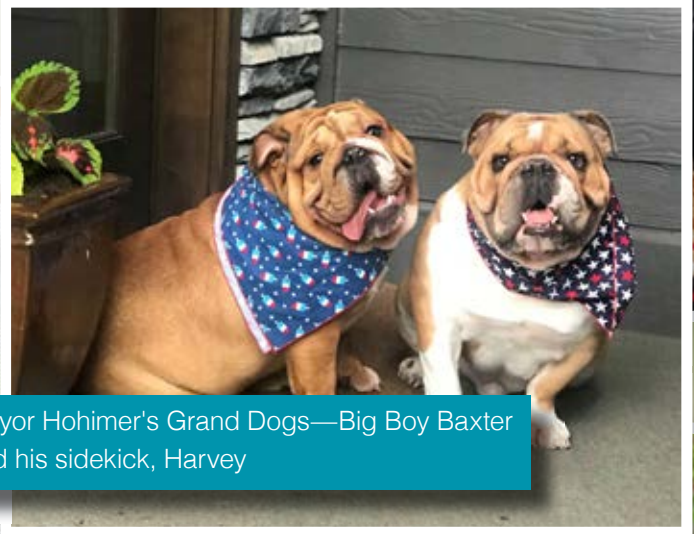
(AND OTHER PLACES IN THE PARK)



Wilson watching rabbits outside—
submitted by Aimee Lloyd



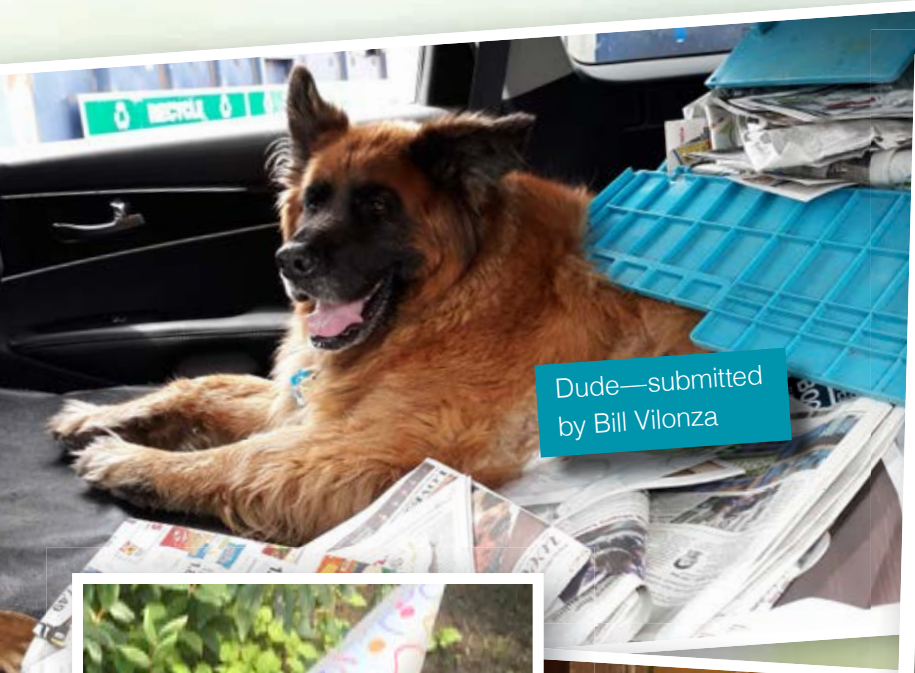
Brutus on the back porch,
his favorite spot—submitted
by Holly Keeton



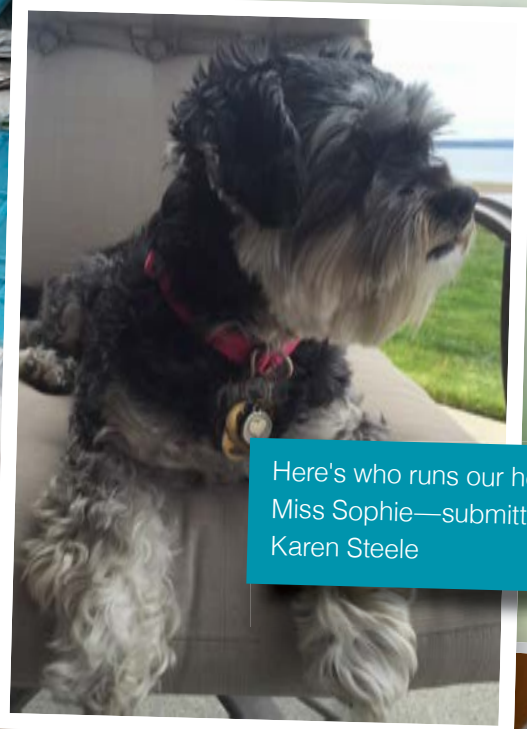
Mayor Hohimer's Grand Dogs—Big Boy Baxter
and his sidekick, Harvey



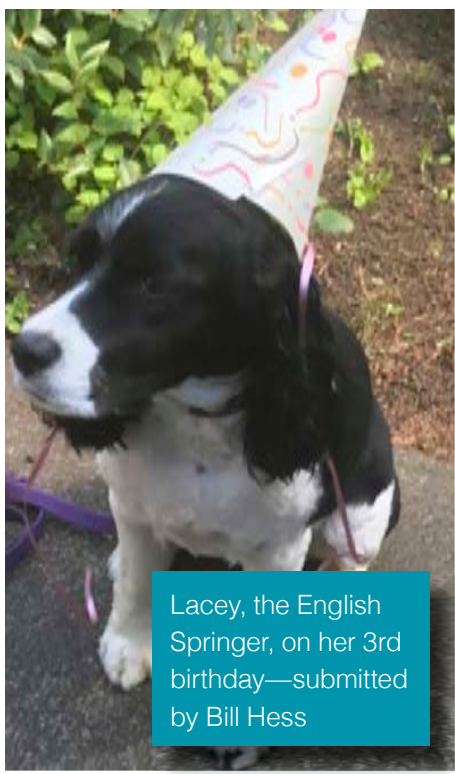
This Gentle Savage is Theodore.
His family, The Savages, live near
Arrow Lake.



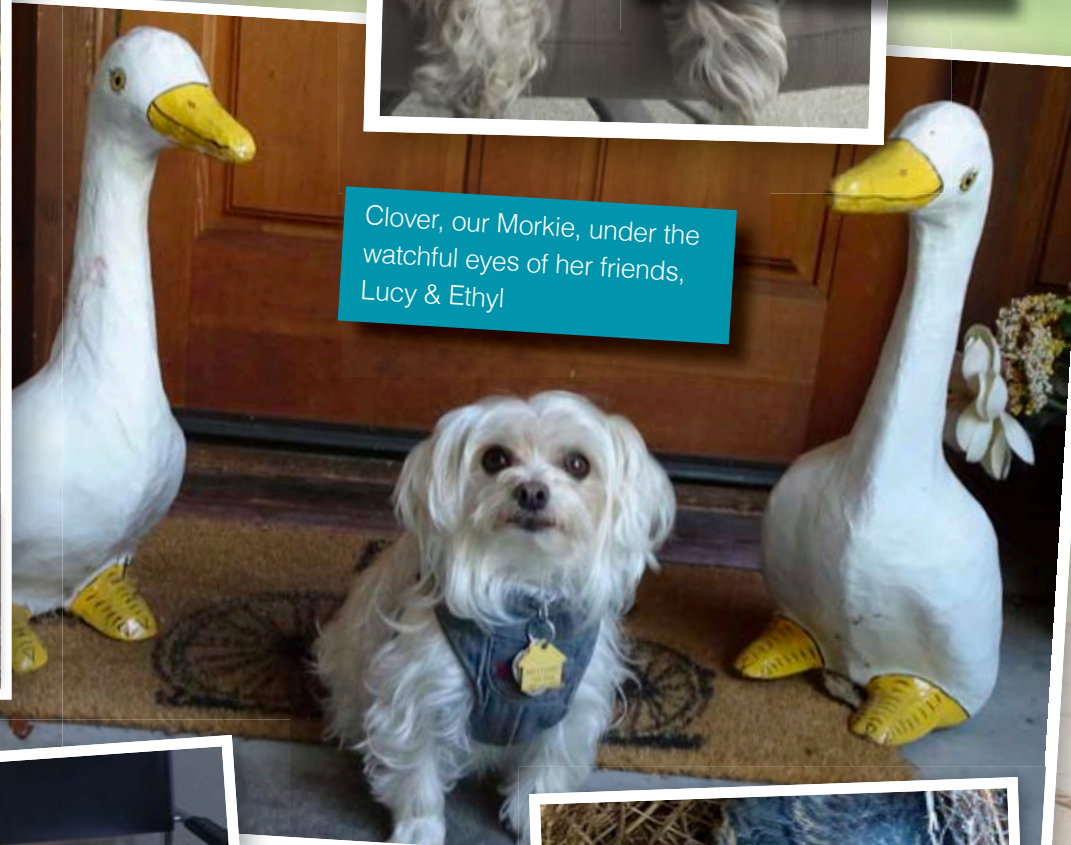
Dude—submitted by Bill Vilonza



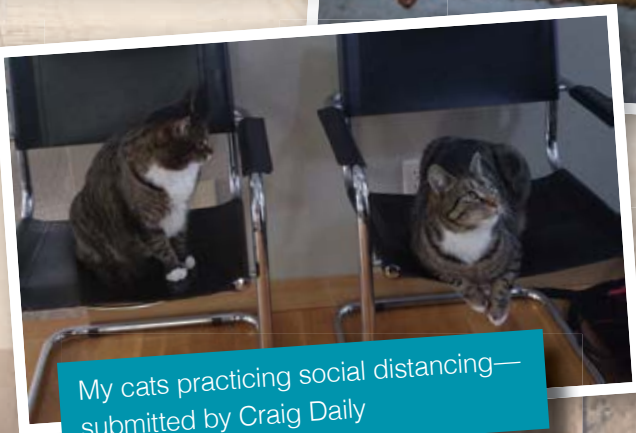
Here's who runs our house... Miss Sophie—submitted by Karen Steele



Lacey, the English Springer, on her 3rd birthday—submitted by Bill Hess



Clover, our Morkie, under the watchful eyes of her friends, Lucy & Ethyl



My cats practicing social distancing—submitted by Craig Daily



Fledging Juncos that nested in my potting shed. They have all left the nest to start their own journey—submitted by Jonathan Chicquette

Amelia's Birthday Parade

BY HOLLY KEETON, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Back in April, a kind woman reached out to the Community Development Director to tell her the story of her granddaughter, Amelia. The woman spoke of Amelia with so much love and adoration that it would be impossible for anyone to resist getting to do something special for her.

City staff was lucky enough to get to play a very special role in helping Amelia celebrate her 6th birthday by getting the Police Department and the Fire Department involved in providing a parade with signs and the birthday songs sung over the intercom by fire firefighters. While city staff was wishing Amelia a very happy birthday, many more cars drove by honking and singing.

It is clear to see that this very special little girl has brought so much light to this world in her short lifetime. Many of us who work in public service went into the field to make communities better places and it is moments like the one described here that we dream of—providing joy to a child and smiles to a family. Thank you for letting us share this day with you. It meant as much or more to the city staff as it did to Amelia.



Amelia, Melissa and Kirk



A Dog's Best Friend

BY GEORGE BULEY

My name is Chester. And my best friend is Manchung. He and I have been a team for 14 years. We get along so well because we understand each other. I need exercise and he needs a good listener. Almost every day we go to Nist Park which is paradise for me. There I get the latest scents of what is

going on. Often a new dog appears and we have what some call a "wag fest". We communicate with all of our senses, and the odors range from the exotic to the mundane. It doesn't matter what the weather is: sun, rain, wind. I love the exhilaration. My hips hurt a lot but I forget that for the excursion.

"Dogs don't rationalize. They don't hold anything against a person. They don't see the outside of a human but the inside of a human."

—Cesar Millan (dog trainer)

In my younger years, I would chase the ball with great enthusiasm. In fact, I could catch the ball on the bounce, and then throw it in the air and catch it again! Great memories.

Yes, I do have a dog's best friend.

Fostering Animals the Right Way... with Love and Attention

BY KATHLEEN O'GRADY-GRAHAM

I have always loved cats, and got into fostering kittens about five years ago through Seattle Animal Shelter. I had to take classes in fostering for both adult cats and kittens. There, I learned useful tips, such as when bottle feeding you don't lay the kittens on their back like a baby but keep them on their stomach and tilt their head up slightly, as if they were nursing from their mother.

Most kittens are born during 'kitten season' in the spring and summer. I had not fostered a kitten since last September and was looking forward to doing so again. Then I noticed on March 13 that Burien C.A.R.E.S. had posted on Facebook about a mom and newborn kittens who had been dumped in front of their door in the middle of the night. The kittens and mom were very cold when they were found in the morning. Sadly, one kitten did not make it. I called Burien C.A.R.E.S. and offered my services and brought home Mama Ronni and four newborns.

Since I had extra time on my hands with the quarantine, I

posted on them every day on social media. I heard from many people about how much they enjoyed seeing these posts. A mother cat and babies are usually the easiest to foster. Mama does much of the work of caring for the kittens, feeding and cleaning them, so you just have to provide her with food and water, and make sure she has a clean litter box. Mama Ronni was a stellar mom and her kittens thrived.

I am an occupational therapist and work at Marvista Elementary. With the physical building being closed and not being able to interact with the students I see in person, I needed to make them some helpful handwriting videos to be sent out online. I was trying to think of ways to make them interesting and realized I could employ the services of the kittens. Sometimes they will help demonstrate how to make letters, and sometimes they will assist me in picking out which letter we will work on. While I am presenting, my son, Declan, videos and wrangles the animals for me. I have heard from my coworkers that these videos have been shared all over the Highline School District.

My philosophy on raising foster kittens is to try to get them as ready as possible for adoption. I expose them to my dog, who I think is a bit afraid of the kittens



and their sharp little claws, but he hides it well. When the kittens have settled in after a few weeks, they get to access more of the house at which point they encounter my own cats. Having seen lots of foster litters come and go, these old resident cats might give the new kittens a hiss or a quick whap (without claws) to show them who's boss, but usually they are accepting of the kittens. Occasionally, they will even take the kittens under their wing and mother them. Before the quarantine, the kittens usually had lots of visitors, which got them used to being handled by people.

As to the mother and her four little ones we fostered from Burien C.A.R.E.S., three wonderful families in the area were lined up to adopt the kittens, and my own mother, who lives near us, took mama. I am proud to say they are all loved, thriving and spoiled rotten. Now we are on to the next litter of kittens and the adventure continues.

If you are interested in learning more about this cat family and other fostered pets, visit <https://www.facebook.com/kathleenogg> or on Instagram @otdiveirish.



COMMUNITY IN QUARANTINE

Some Bright Spots Shine Through

POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZES BLOOD DRIVE

*Blood Works Blood Drive organized by
the Normandy Park Police Department
(Held at City Hall)*

- *Donations Collected 164*
- *Your donations from this drive help
to save 492 patients*
- *Registered 48 first time donors*
- *Thank you to all who donated.
You will be eligible to donate again
July 27 through August 4*



SIDEWALK CHALK ART WALK—Bringing the sidewalk to life



HOT LUNCHES FOR SENIORS *Des Moines Senior & Activity Center will be serving hot lunches for take-out at noon, Monday through Thursday*



HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS

Some fun facts from the schools:

25,000 free lunches per week

10,000 devices distributed for distance learning

GRADUATION 2020



HEART IN THE PARK

FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW PARADE IN NORMANDY PARK



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

ANSWER KEY
PAGE 30

W B W A L K U H H Q Z Z E B M
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ourbestfriend
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microchip
collar
bowl
paws
puppy
woof

normandypark
pettag
growl
treats
food
parks
toy

animalfriend
canine
leash
walk
bark
chew
dog



So, What Are “The Dog Days of Summer”?

BY JESSIE MEDROW, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

The Dog Days of Summer describes the most oppressive period of summer heat, between July 3 and August 11 each year. The phrase is actually a reference to the fact that the ancient Greeks noticed that in the summer months, Sirius, The Dog Star, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog, rose and set with the Sun. This observation caused them to theorize that it was the bright, glowing Dog Star that was adding extra heat to the Earth in July and August, causing them to refer to the timeframe of the occurrence as the “Dog Days.”

This is more proof that since ancient times, the “experts” have been known to get things wrong a few times before getting things right. We’re still glad for those who dare to put observable facts and theories to the scientific method. One never knows what can be discovered when willing to attempt pursuit of truth! (Make sure your 6th grader knows the true reason it gets hot in the summer.)

Stargazing is the perfect summer activity. A great resource for getting to know the night sky is a book by Curious George author, H.A. Rey titled *The Stars: A New Way to See Them*. Another great resource is <https://stellarium-web.org>, which provides a realistic star map based on time and location so you can study the map before your next stargazing adventure!

Challenge yourself to a backyard adventure by taking part in this timeless tradition. A fun and free activity that is sure to spark your imagination and provide entertainment on a clear summer night during these “Dog Days” of summer.

“For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love.”

—Carl Sagan



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The Normandy Park Sky

The Big Dipper is an asterism comprised of seven bright stars. This group of stars can be found in the constellation, Ursa Major. Gazing northwest, this star map can help serve as a guide during your backyard stargazing adventure. Also keep an eye out for the annual Perseid meteor shower August 11, 12, and 13.



“Only in the darkness can you see the stars” —Martin Luther King Jr.

WBWALKUHHOZZEBM
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 OUPBOLF AUROAFRC
 FORAFREAGOOIRKR
 PCCBWTMMWDFERTO
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 RAOYURNFWTYWDPP
 KRBBSJERLSPRYD
 SMGOHUEPISYAUO
 OFQNWHLRXFEANRG
 ROVERLPUHJVNTFK
 ANIMALFRIENDDSQ
 NBARKINTHEPARKR

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

ANSWER KEY



Why live on or near the water in Normandy Park?

Water has an extraordinarily calming effect on most humans. Science tells us just looking at water relaxes us on a biological level. Seeing or hearing water triggers a response in our brains inducing a flood of neurochemicals that increase blood flow to our heart and brain.



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